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BPA Moves Forward On Renewables

Bonneville Power Administration

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ARLINGTON, Wyo. - The Bonneville Power Administration is promoting renewable energy development, even as the agency looks to become more competitive.

BPA and PacifiCorp signed an agreement today reaffirming their intention to complete the Foote Creek Rim wind turbine demonstration project. A Record of Decision is expected later this year after completion of an environmental study of the project.

Bonneville would purchase approximately 30 percent of the output from the 68 megawatt project.

"Today's agreement reflects BPA's commitment to renewable energy and other green power products," said BPA Administrator Randy Hardy. "We consider the project to be significant as we pursue our renewable energy responsibilities as mandated by the Northwest Power Act."

Foote Creek Rim would test wind energy's ability to be a reliable, economical, and environmentally acceptable resource. It would also demonstrate a wind turbine's ability to operate efficiently in a cold weather environment. The wind farm, consisting of approximately 195 state-of-the-art units, would be installed by Kenetech under an arrangement with PacifiCorp and three other owners. Each wind turbine is powered by a 109-foot diameter rotor mounted on an 80- to 120-foot tubular tower. Turbines, towers, and transmission lines would be designed to maximize visibility to birds. Raptor antipredation devices would be installed and other measures also would be used to reduce losses to bird populations in the area.

Ralph Cavanagh of the Natural Resources Defense Council said, "This project vaults the Pacific Northwest into a new position of international leadership on sustainable energy development."

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The project is a joint undertaking of PacifiCorp, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Colorado Public Service Corporation, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and BPA. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall, and the project is expected to begin operating in late 1996.

"BPA, PacifiCorp and EWEB have demonstrated their leadership and made an investment for our future by committing to this wind project," said Rachel Shimshak, Director of Renewable Northwest Project. "The Wyoming project represents a meaningful step toward a clean energy future for the region -- one that will help maintain our quality of life in the Northwest."

BPA is also pursuing the acquisition of the capability of a separate wind farm site near Goldendale, Washington. The Goldendale project is being developed by Conservation And Renewable Energy Systems, a consortium of public utilities in Washington state. Both projects are part of BPA's commitment to expand the supply of renewable resources by initiating demonstration projects.

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For more information, contact BPA Media Relations, 503-230-5131.
